

What is claimed is:

1. A trackable optical disc having readable nonoperational data, comprising:
 - a first reflective surface having an attribute trackable by an optical disc reader; and
 - a data-encoding nonoperational feature disposed readably with said trackable attribute.
2. The trackable optical disc of claim 1, wherein said nonoperational feature and said trackable attribute are readable by the same optical pickup.
3. The trackable optical disc of claim 1, wherein said nonoperational feature is readable concurrently with said trackable attribute.
4. The trackable optical disc of claim 2, wherein said nonoperational feature is readable concurrently with said trackable attribute.
5. The trackable optical disk of claim 1, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said trackable attribute.
6. The trackable optical disk of claim 2, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said trackable attribute.
7. The trackable optical disk of claim 3, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said trackable attribute.

8. The trackable optical disk of claim 4, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said trackable attribute.

9. The trackable optical disk of claim 1, wherein said trackable attribute is radially disposed.

10. The trackable optical disc of claim 9, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

11. The trackable optical disc of claim 2, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

12. The trackable optical disc of claim 3, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

13. The trackable optical disc of claim 4, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

14. The trackable optical disc of claim 5, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

15. The trackable optical disc of claim 6, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

16. The trackable optical disc of claim 7, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

17. The trackable optical disc of claim 8, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

18. The trackable optical disc of claim 1, wherein the signal from said nonoperational feature is detectable as an amplitude variation in the HF signal.

19. The trackable optical disc of claim 5, wherein the signal from said nonoperational feature is detectable as an amplitude variation in the HF signal.

20. The trackable optical disc of claim 10, wherein the signal from said nonoperational feature is detectable as an amplitude variation in the HF signal.

21. The trackable optical disc of claim 1, wherein the duration of nonoperational signal provides a substantially quantitative measure of the size of said nonoperational feature in the direction of disc tracking.

22. The trackable optical disc of claim 18, wherein the duration of nonoperational signal provides a substantially quantitative measure of the size of said nonoperational feature in the direction of disc tracking.

23. The trackable optical disc of claim 19, wherein the duration of nonoperational signal provides a substantially quantitative measure of the size of said nonoperational feature in the direction of disc tracking.

24. The trackable optical disc of claim 20, wherein the duration of nonoperational signal provides a

substantially quantitative measure of the size of said nonoperational feature in the direction of disc tracking.

25. The trackable optical disc of claim 1, further comprising a first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein both said first reflective surface and said trackable attribute are disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate.

26. The trackable optical disc of claim 5, further comprising a first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein both said first reflective surface and said trackable attribute are disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate.

27. The trackable optical disc of claim 10, further comprising a first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein both said first reflective surface and said trackable attribute are disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate.

28. The trackable optical disc of claim 25, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed on the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface of said disc substrate.

29. The trackable optical disc of claim 26, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed on the laser-

proximal side of said first reflective surface of said disc substrate.

30. The trackable optical disc of claim 27, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed on the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface of said disc substrate.

31. The trackable optical disc of claim 25, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of a light transmissible coating applied to the laser-proximal surface of said first reflective surface.

32. The trackable optical disc of claim 1, wherein said first reflective surface holographically projects a readable image of said trackable attribute when illuminated.

33. The trackable optical disc of claim 32, wherein said holographic image is projected confocally to said nonoperational feature.

34. The trackable optical disc of claim 33, wherein said projected tracking attribute is an image of a wobble groove.

35. An optical disc assembly having readable nonoperational data, comprising:

- a trackable optical disc according to claim 1, and
- a laser-refracting cover;

wherein said cover further focuses the laser of said optical disc reader on said disc's first reflective surface.

36. An optical disc assembly having readable nonoperational data, comprising:

- a trackable optical disc according to claim 5, and
- a laser-refracting cover;

wherein said cover further focuses the laser of said optical disc reader on said disc's first reflective surface.

37. An optical disc assembly having readable nonoperational data, comprising:

- a trackable optical disc according to claim 10,
- and
- a laser-refracting cover;

wherein said cover further focuses the laser of said optical disc reader on said disc's first reflective surface.

38. The optical disc assembly of claim 35, wherein said cover is nonintegral to said disc and attachable thereto.

39. The optical disc assembly of claim 38, wherein said cover is reversibly attachable to said disc.

40. The optical disc assembly of claim 35, wherein said cover is moveably attached to said disc.

41. The optical disc assembly of claim 40, wherein said cover is hingeably attached to said disc.

42. The optical disc assembly of claim 35, wherein said cover consists essentially of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic and glass.

43. The optical disc assembly of claim 42, wherein said cover consists essentially of plastic.

44. The optical disc assembly of claim 43, wherein said cover consists essentially of polystyrene.

45. The optical disc assembly of claim 43, wherein said cover consists essentially of polycarbonate.

46. The optical disc assembly of claim 35, wherein said assembly has a radial diameter between 110 - 130 mm and a depth between 1.1 - 1.3 mm.

47. The optical disc assembly of claim 35, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-distal side of said cover.

48. The optical disc assembly of claim 36, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-distal side of said cover.

49. The optical disc assembly of claim 37, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-distal side of said cover.

50. A trackable optical disc having readable nonoperational data, comprising:

- a first reflective surface;
- a second reflective surface;

and

- a data-encoding nonoperational feature,

wherein said first or second reflective surface has an attribute trackable by an optical disc reader and said nonoperational feature is disposed readably with said trackable attribute.

51. The trackable optical disc of claim 50, wherein said nonoperational feature and said trackable attribute are readable by the same optical pickup.

52. The trackable optical disc of claim 50, wherein said nonoperational feature is readable concurrently with said trackable attribute.

53. The trackable optical disc of claim 52, wherein said nonoperational feature and said trackable attribute are readable by the same optical pickup.

54. The trackable optical disc of claim 50, wherein said second reflective surface is semireflective.

55. The trackable optical disc of claim 54, further comprising a first solid substrate and a second solid substrate, each having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, said first reflective surface disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, said semireflective surface disposed upon

the laser-distal side of said second solid substrate, said second solid substrate and said semireflective surface both being laser-proximal to said first solid substrate and first reflective surface.

56. The trackable optical disc of claim 55, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said semireflective surface.

57. The trackable optical disc of claim 56, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed on the laser-distal side of said semireflective surface.

58. The trackable optical disc of claim 55, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said first reflective surface.

59. The trackable optical disc of claim 58, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed on the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface.

60. The trackable optical disc of claim 55, wherein said analyte-specific signal element is disposed between said first reflective surface and said semireflective surface.

61. The trackable optical disc of claim 50, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

62. The trackable optical disc of claim 61, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said wobble groove.

63. The trackable optical disc of claim 55, wherein said first and second substrates are reversibly separable.

64. A trackable optical disc system, comprising:
a trackable optical disc according to claim 1; and
an optical disc reader.

65. A trackable optical disc system, comprising:
a trackable optical disc according to claim 50;
and
an optical disc reader.

66. A trackable optical disc system, comprising:
a trackable optical disc assembly according to
claim 35; and
an optical disc reader.

67. A method of making a trackable optical disc having readable nonoperational data, comprising the step of:
disposing a data-encoding nonoperational feature on an optical disc readably with a trackable attribute of said disc.

68. The method of claim 67, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said trackable attribute.

69. The method of claim 67, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

70. The method of claim 68, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

71. The method of claim 68, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate and a reflective surface, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, and said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface.

72. The method of claim 69, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate and a reflective surface, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, and said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface.

73. The method of claim 70, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate and a reflective surface, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, and said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface.

74. The method of claim 68, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate, a reflective

surface, and a light transmissive layer, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, said light transmissive layer is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said reflective surface, and said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said light transmissive layer.

75. The method of claim 69, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate, a reflective surface, and a light transmissive layer, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, said light transmissive layer is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said reflective surface, and said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said light transmissive layer.

76. The method of claim 70, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate, a reflective surface, and a light transmissive layer, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, said light transmissive layer is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said reflective surface, and said nonoperational feature is

disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said light transmissive layer.

77. A method of making a trackable optical disc assembly having readable nonoperational data, comprising the steps of:

disposing a data-encoding nonoperational feature on the laser-distal side of a laser-refracting cover; and

attaching said cover to a disc having a first reflective surface with an attribute trackable by an optical disc reader;

wherein said data-encoding nonoperational feature is readable with said tracking attribute when said cover is attached to said disc.

78. A method of using an optical disc reader to read data encoded in a nonoperational feature of a disc, comprising the step of:

trackably reading the optical disc of claim 1 in said reader.

79. The method of claim 78, wherein said data are detectable in the optical disc reader's HF signal.

80. The method of claim 78, wherein said data includes dimensional information about the nonoperational feature.

81. The method of claim 78, wherein said nonoperational feature includes a wobble groove.

82. A method of segregating tracking signals from signals generated by readable nonoperational features disposed upon an optical disc, comprising:

disposing said nonoperational feature confocally with a trackable attribute that produces minimal variation in the HF signal during trackable reading of said optical disc.

83. The method of claim 82, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

84. The method of claim 83, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed laser-proximal to said wobble groove.

85. The trackable optical disk of claim 1, wherein said nonoperational feature is an analyte-specific signal element.

86. The trackable optical disk of any one of claims 2 - 34, 50 -63, wherein said nonoperational feature is an analyte-specific signal element.

87. The trackable optical disk of claim 85, wherein said analyte-specific signal element includes an antibody.

88. The trackable optical disk of claim 85, wherein said analyte-specific signal element includes a nucleic acid.

89. The trackable optical disk of claim 85, wherein said analyte-specific signal element is a cell.

90. The trackable optical disk assembly of any one of claims 35 - 49, wherein said nonoperational feature is an analyte-specific signal element.

91. The method of making trackable optical discs of claim 67, wherein said nonoperational feature is an analyte-specific signal element.

92. The method of any one of claims 68 - 77, wherein said nonoperational feature is an analyte-specific signal element.